

Changes in Hunting Season

Duck Populations

This year the canvasback and pintail season will be "a season within a season." Continued concerns have prompted a restricted hunting season for both species. Spring surveys in the prairies and parklands of the U.S. and Canada indicate canvasback numbers are unchanged and pintails are above the 2002 estimates. Pintails remain about 40 percent below the long-term average and canvasback are just below their long-term average.

Habitat conditions for breeding waterfowl greatly improved over last year with warm temperatures and abundant rain during the spring in most prairie areas. Biologists are hopeful these favorable conditions will contribute to a population recovery.

2003 Season Dates

Canvasback: Season by State

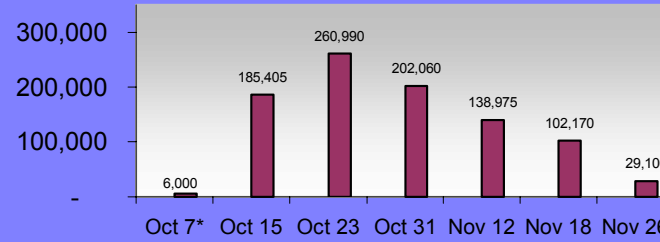
Minnesota	Oct 11—Nov. 9	
Wisconsin	Sept. 27 (noon) -Oct.26 (N. Zone)	
	Oct. 18—Nov. 16 (S.Z.)	
Iowa	Oct. 18—Nov. 16 (N.Z.)	
Illinois	Oct. 16—Nov. 14 (N.Z.)	

Pintail: Season by State

Minnesota	Sept. 27—Oct. 26	
Wisconsin	Sept. 27 (noon)-Oct. 26 (N. Zone)	
	Oct. 4 (noon)-Oct 12 and	
	Oct. 18—Nov. 7 (S.Z.)	
Iowa	Sept. 20-24/Oct 11—Nov 4	
Illinois	Oct. 16—Nov. 14 (N.Z.)	

For additional Refuge information:
<http://www.usfws.gov/waterfowl/mississippi/>

Canvasback Concentrations
Upper Mississippi River, Pools 4 - 14
2002 Fall Migration



* Denotes Partial Survey

Canvasbacks on the Upper Mississippi River

During fall migration, canvasbacks prefer a diet of plant and animal foods which are often found in open water areas. In 2002, canvasback numbers peaked at 260,990 primarily on Pools 7, 8, 9, and 13. Similar numbers are expected this year.

Help protect waterfowl

Report violations to:

Minnesota DNR	1-800-652-9093
Wisconsin DNR	1-800-847-9367
Iowa DNR	1-800-532-2020
Illinois DNR	1-877-236-7529

US Fish and Wildlife Service:

Winona District (Pools 4-6)	507-494-6211
La Crosse District (Pools 7-8)	608-783-8404
McGregor District (Pools 9-11)	563-873-3423 (Ext. 3)
Savanna District (Pools 12-14)	815-273-2732 (Ext. 14)

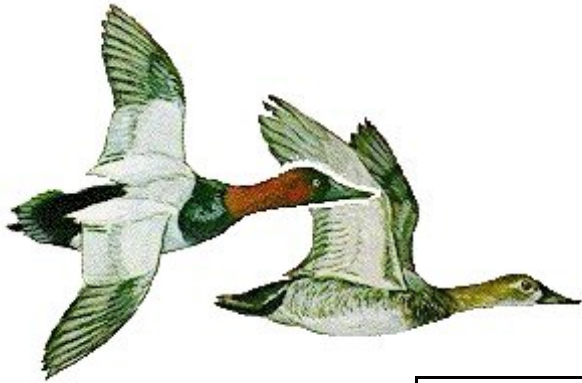
How you can help

- Expect to see canvasbacks, pintail, and scaup from late summer through winter! Over 75 percent of the canvasbacks in North American use the Mississippi Flyway during migration. Canvasbacks, pintails, and scaup may arrive before the opening of the waterfowl season and remain in the area after the season ends.
- Know your ducks!** Being able to identify waterfowl in flight is important and contributes to a more enjoyable hunting experience. If you can't identify waterfowl, take the time and learn. Canvasbacks in flight can easily be confused with pintails, redheads, ring-necked ducks, and scaup (bluebills) - species all found on the Upper Mississippi River.
- Let 'em get close!** It's easier to identify canvasbacks and other waterfowl at 25-35 yards, or closer, and you will have fewer crippled birds. Practice estimating distances.
- Help Others!** Tell other waterfowlers when canvasbacks, pintails, and scaup are in the area. Teach others identification skills.

The following contributed to the printing of the brochure: Brice Prairie Conservation Association, Coulee Region Chapter of Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges, Holmen Rod and Gun Club, La Crosse County Conservation Alliance, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Lake Onalaska District, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service..

Can You Distinguish Between.....

Canvasbacks



Drake



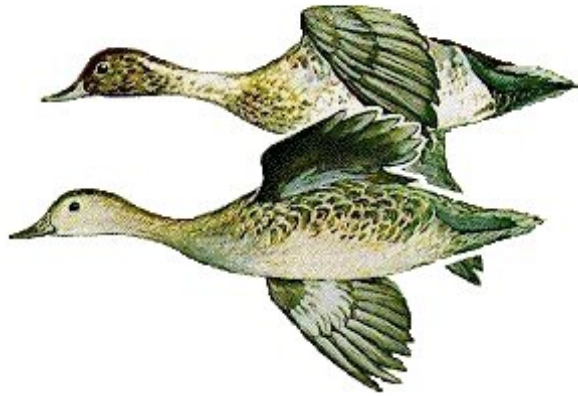
Hen

Canvasbacks are powerful, direct fliers. The sloping profile of the head and bill are distinctive. **The feet are outstretched beyond the tail.** White belly contrasts with dark chest and rump. Young birds and females may fly alone or in small groups.

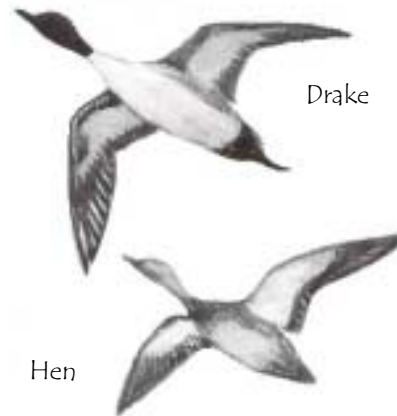


Typical Canvasback
Flock Pattern

Pintails



Pintails are extremely graceful and fast fliers. They are fond of zig-zagging from great heights before leveling off to land.



Drake

Hen



Typical Pintail
Flock Pattern

Waterfowlers
Know
Your
Ducks!

Remember!

Canvasback
and
Pintail

Season Has Been
Shortened
This Year